



## Mozambique and Millennium Challenge Corporation Building a Dynamic Partnership for Poverty Reduction Through Economic Growth

The Board of the Millennium Challenge Corporation has approved a five-year, \$506.9 million Millennium Challenge Compact to reduce poverty and increase economic growth in the Republic of Mozambique. The Program's goal is to increase the productive capacity of the population in selected districts, with the intended impact of reducing the poverty rate, increasing household income and employment, and reducing chronic malnutrition in the targeted districts. The various interventions are designed to foster investment and increase economic opportunities for Mozambicans living in the North.

### Background

Since emerging in 1992 from three decades of almost constant conflict, Mozambique has experienced one of the fastest growth rates in Africa, averaging eight percent per year over the last decade. To sustain this growth, it is necessary to unlock the potential of the economically lagging Northern provinces, which are home to approximately 10 million people. Moreover, given Mozambique's rapid urbanization, its next stage of economic recovery, cannot succeed without well-functioning public services in its cities, where coverage levels for water and sanitation are declining.

### Water and Sanitation Project (\$203.6 million)

The largest of the components in the Compact, the Water Supply and Sanitation Project, will increase access to a safe, reliable water supply and sanitation services thereby increasing productivity and reducing water-borne diseases -- the leading cause of death in children under five. It involves water supply and sanitation services in six cities in the provinces of Zambézia, Nampula and Cabo Delgado; water supply in two mid-sized towns in Nampula and Cabo Delgado provinces; rural water supply services covering 600 water points in the Nampula and Cabo Delgado provinces; and capacity building of local institutions and policy development.

### Transportation Project (\$176.3 million)

The Compact includes a Transportation Project that will improve access to markets, resources, and services; reduce transport costs for the private sector to facilitate investment and commercial traffic; expand connectivity across the Northern region and the southern half of the country; and increase public transport access for indi-

viduals to take advantage of job and other economic opportunities. Specifically, MCC funding will rehabilitate 491 km of key segments of the National Route 1 which forms the backbone of country's transportation network.

## **Land Tenure Services Project (\$39.1 million)**

The objective of the Land Tenure Services Project is to establish more efficient and secure access to land by improving the policy framework, upgrading land information systems and services, and helping beneficiaries meet immediate needs for registered land rights and better access to land for investment. This project is comprised of three mutually reinforcing activity areas:

- Policy Monitoring Pillar: to help improve the policy environment by addressing implementation problems with the existing land law, conducting regulatory reviews to improve upon it, and supporting training for predictable, speedy resolution of disputes;
- Capacity Building Pillar: to build the institutional capacity to implement policies and to provide quality public land-related services by investing in human and information resources; and
- Site-specific Pillar: to facilitate access to land use by helping individuals and businesses with clear information on land rights and access and with registering their grants-of-land use.

## **Farmer Income Support Project (\$17.4 million)**

Coconuts and coconut products form an important part of the economy in Northern Mozambique. However, outbreaks of Coconut Lethal Yellowing Disease (CLYD) now threaten the industry and the livelihood of over 1.7 million people in Zambézia and Nampula Provinces. At the present rate of spread, more than 50 percent of the coconut area is likely to be lost over the next nine years. Affected trees cease producing and threaten healthy trees' productivity; therefore, they must be removed and replaced.

The objective of the Farmer Income Support Project is to reduce the spread of CLYD, to improve productivity of coconut products, and to encourage diversification into other cash-crop production. This project will eliminate biological and technical barriers that hinder economic growth among farms and targeted enterprises while supporting diversification into other cash crops and improved farming practices to assist smallholders and producers recover lost income. In conjunction with tree removal and replacement, this activity will assist farmers in adopting new cropping systems and developing alternative sources of cash income during the time required for new coconut trees to reach productive age. This component will also provide technical support to introduce better practices aimed at increasing crop yields.

The Compact also includes \$70.5 million for program management, oversight, fiscal accountability, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the Compact budget contains \$40 million of funding for capacity building and technical assistance to strengthen local institutions.

## Expected Results

The Program is expected to reduce the projected poverty rate by over seven percent by 2015 and by over 16 percent by 2025. As a result of Program implementation, nearly 270,000 Mozambicans will be lifted out of poverty by 2015 and 440,000 by 2025. Individually:

- The Water Supply and Sanitation Project is expected to assist some 1.9 million Mozambicans by 2015 through improved water systems, wastewater disposal, and storm water drainage.
- The Transportation Project is expected to improve access to markets and services for nearly 2.3 million Mozambicans by 2015.
- The Land Tenure Services Project will create improved land tenure services and will benefit 1.9 million Mozambicans by 2015, the first year after the end of the Compact, and 2.6 million 15 years after the end of the Compact.
- The Farmer Income Support Project will benefit 1.7 million smallholders as well as workers on coconut estates, which employ some 5,000 people.

Overall, the Program is expected to reach a total of five million people, many of whom will benefit from multiple projects.

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*Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a United States government corporation designed to work with some of the poorest countries in the world, is based on the principle that aid is most effective when it reinforces good governance, economic freedom, and investments in people that promote economic growth and elimination of extreme poverty*